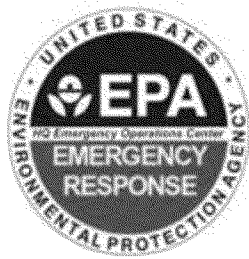


From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Fri 1/17/2014 9:20:56 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #14
R3 Chemical Spill Charleston WV Update 14.docx

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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #14

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1615 January 17, 2014

Overview: On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: West Virginia water authorities issued a “Do Not Use Water Notice” for 10 counties and the President’s Emergency Declaration covers eight counties. West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) customers were told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water could be used for toilets and fire emergencies. When the incident originally occurred, it impacted 300,000 people.

EPA Region 3’s Water Division reported that the West Virginia American water company (WVAWC) has lifted the “do not use” order for the last customer area. Customers in the Clendenin area may begin flushing according to the established guidelines. However, the West Virginia American Water Company has advised the customers of three towns (Buffalo, Frazier’s Bottom and Pliny) to not drink the water and have limited contact with their water because new water sampling results indicated additional flushing is needed.

West Virginia American Water is also reporting that peak demand of water in the cleared areas may cause low water pressure, outages, and reduction in the amount of water available for fire protection. In some areas, pressure has dropped to the point that advisories have been issued to boil water. Plant operators will continue to assess tank levels and water pressure overnight. The company continues to request that customers follow the flushing procedures and also only begin flushing when their service area is cleared. The EPA drinking water program is requesting additional information on monitoring that will be in place once restrictions are lifted.

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) estimated the MCHM plume in the Ohio River will arrive at Louisville Water Friday, 1/17/14, at 9:00 AM and at Cannelton Locks and Dam Sunday, 1/19/14, at 1:00 AM. The Cannelton Locks and Dam are located on the Ohio River at mile 720.7 below Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is three miles upstream from Cannelton, Indiana. ORSANCO reports that concentrations of MCHM at Beckjord (approximately 10 miles upstream from Cincinnati) are now below estimated detection levels after peaking at approximately 18 ppb at 1/15/14 at 9 AM. As a result, the water treatment facility opened its intakes and began normal operations early afternoon on 1/16.

WVDEP granted a minor permit modification to Freedom Industries allowing disposal of solid waste at the City of Charleston’s Landfill. The MCHM solid waste was deemed non-hazardous according to RCRA. Approval was granted for disposal of 2,000 tons per year. Freedom Industries is awaiting WVDEP permit for the approval of treatment of the MCHM-contaminated water, via air stripping and carbon treatment.

A total of 19 baker tanks are full of the MCHM-contaminated water, and are stored at the Poca facility. The single-walled Baker tanks are being replaced with double-walled tanks. Additional security measures are being taken in this staging area, including installation of wireless cameras. These cameras are also going to be installed in the tank storage area at Freedom Industries, in order to conduct 24-hour monitoring of the tanks to ensure that no additional leaks are occurring.

Removal of trees and vegetation was completed near the location of two 400,000-gallon glycerin tanks still containing about 48,000 gallons of glycerin. The thick glycerin in these tanks will be thinned with water before pumping out into tanker trucks. Glycerin from the other four storage tanks at the SW end of the facility is currently being pumped into tanker trucks and transported off-site, per WVDEP order.

The interceptor trench was extended toward the rear of the 400,000 gallon glycerin tanks and covered with polyliner to divert all of the runoff water from the containment areas and storm drain into a single interceptor trench.

The facility developed four 20-ft deep monitoring wells in the base of the slope, located adjacent to the riverbank. There are also three 40-ft. monitoring wells located in front of the containment area.

The WV Emergency Operations Center remains at Level I (Full Activation). The FEMA National Watch Center is at Normal Operations (Watch/Steady State). The FEMA Region III Regional Response Coordination Center remains at Level III (Partial Activation). The FEMA Region III Liaison Officer and Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) remain deployed.

EPA Action: Two Region 3 OSCs report that river flow has significantly decreased, and is almost back to normal. The facility continues to maintain the boom deployed in the river. The boom had no MCHM odor and no product was observed on the absorbent booms.

Media Interest: High

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wva-pregnant-women-worry-late-cdc-water-warning/story?id=21558200>

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-chemical-danger-20140117,0,7792964.story#axzz2qgtAgrFr>

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401150024>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/new-owner-of-freedom-industries-must-face-fallout-of-west-virginia-chemical-spill/2014/01/17/77b1a572-7df2-11e3-93c1-0e888170b723_story.html?hpid=z4

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

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